

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) A method of predicting stock market behavior using natural language processing, comprising:

extracting information from news media relating to a particular publicly traded company to create a template including natural language text describing activities or announcements of said particular publicly traded company;

relating changes in stock price of said particular publicly traded company to information stored in said template about said particular publicly traded company;

determining a statistical significance of said changes in stock price of said particular publicly traded company based on said information; and

predicting changes in price of the stock of said particular publicly traded company based on new information about said particular publicly traded company if information of the type included in the new information has in the past caused a statistically significant change in the stock price in said particular publicly traded company.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 2 , further comprising clustering the information of said particular publicly traded company with information of another company whose stock price has been shown to be similarly affected by similar information as included in said new information.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 2, wherein said information extracting step comprises using natural language processing to parse sources of said information for information about said particular publicly traded company, standardizing different references to the particular publicly traded company by different proper names, co-referencing when the particular publicly traded company is referred to by pronouns, adding said new information to said template, and adding additional information about said particular publicly traded company to said template using databases and/or derived values.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 2, comprising the further steps of clustering templates containing information about different publicly traded companies into similar cluster groups, determining changes in stock price at different intervals for different companies in a cluster group in response to comparable information, and estimating the statistical probability of a change in the stock price of said particular publicly traded company in response to certain new information statistically correlated to that in said comparable information.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 2, comprising the further step of conducting a stock trade based on said predicted changes in stock price.